

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 2006

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SEN. BARCIA PRAISES BAY AREA ROAD FUNDING *Governor Granholm Announces \$4.4M in Local Transportation Enhancement Grants*

LANSING— Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) is pleased to share that Bay, Huron and Tuscola are among 23 Michigan counties receiving \$11,835,163 in federal Transportation Enhancement funding announced today by Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm. When the federal money is matched with local funds, over 33 communities will benefit from a total \$16,241,647 investment across the state. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will work in partnership with the cities and townships to begin the projects in 2007.

"This is tremendous news for our part of the state," Sen. Jim Barcia said. "This funding will not only create jobs and boost the local economy, it will make our roads—and trails—more beautiful, functional and safe for all residents to enjoy."

Under federal law, 10 percent of federal surface transportation funds are set aside for Transportation Enhancement projects. Administered by MDOT, the grants enable communities to invest in infrastructure improvements and enhancements that add appeal to residents, businesses and visitors. Transportation Enhancement funds provide a maximum of up to 80 percent of the money required for each project, with the remainder coming from state and local government and the private sector. Bay area projects include:

Bay

MDOT, in partnership with the city of Pinconning, will streetscape M-13 from 2nd Street to the north city limit and 5th Street to the south city limit. Streetscape improvements include trees, benches, flower planters, trash receptacles, decorative paving, and decorative street lights, and will visually enhance this corridor and increase pedestrian safety. The project budget is \$491,397, including \$373,998 in federal funds, \$97,399 from MDOT, and \$20,000 from the city.

Huron

MDOT will increase the width of the shoulder on M-25 (Lakeshore Road) in Rubicon Township, Huron County in conjunction with another 2007 MDOT project for a total of 8.8 miles, and will also partner with Caseville Township and the village of Caseville to widen the shoulders along an additional 10.2 miles of M-25 in Huron County. The widening of the shoulder will allow for safer non-motorized use and tie into other existing non-motorized paths. The projects are budgeted at is \$1,486,973, including \$1,172,746 in federal funds, and \$293,227 from MDOT, and \$21,000 from the Caseville township and village.

Tuscola

MDOT, in partnership with the village of Reese, will streetscape one mile of Saginaw Street (M-81) from Reese Road to Van Buren Road. MDOT, in partnership with the Southern Links Trail way Management Council, will also develop a 10-mile abandoned railroad facility into a non-motorized path from Columbiaville, in Lapeer County, through the northeast section of Genesee County, to Millington in Tuscola County. Work includes clearing, paving, rehabilitating the bridge, and installing interpretive signs, trailhead facilities, and benches. The two projects will get \$2,883,100 in federal funds, \$753,489 from MDOT, and \$130,855 from the village of Reese.

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